

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling authenticated communication between a first entity and at least one other entity, the system including a second entity, wherein:
the first entity and the second entity share transport keys, ~~the second entity having a base transport key and the first entity having a variant transport key of the base transport key;~~ and
the second entity includes at least one variant authentication key ~~being a variant key of a base key included in the at least one other entity,~~ configured to be transported from the second entity to the first entity using the transport keys, the variant authentication key being a variant key of a base authentication key included in the at least one other entity and being usable to enable the authenticated communication by the first entity with the at least one other entity, the first entity being configured to use common signature generation using the transport keys to receive the variant authentication key from the second entity.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the variant transport authentication key has been generated by applying a one way function to the base transport authentication key and a first bit-pattern.
5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein the first bit-pattern is stored in the first at least one other entity.
6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein each of the ~~variant and base transport keys~~ is a second bit-pattern stored in the first and second entities during manufacture of the system or its components.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6, wherein the second bit-pattern was determined randomly or pseudo-randomly.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the variant authentication key enables authenticated communication between the first and second entities.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the variant authentication key provides the first entity with permission to request performance of at least one operation on at least one value in the second entity.

11 - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the variant authentication key is a third bit-pattern that was determined randomly or pseudo-randomly.

16-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling communication between at least first and second entities of a system, method comprising the steps of:

providing the first and second entities with transport keys, ~~the second entity having a base transport key and the first entity having a variant transport key of the base transport key;~~ and

providing the second entity with at least one variant authentication key being a variant key of a base authentication key included in at least one other entity;

the system being configured to enable transport of the at least one variant authentication key from the second entity to the first entity using the transport keys, the variant authentication key being usable to enable the authenticated communication by the first entity with the at least one other entity and the first entity being configured to use common signature generation using the transport keys to receive the variant authentication key from the second entity.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the variant ~~transport~~ authentication key has been generated by applying a one way function to the base ~~transport~~ authentication key and a first bit-pattern.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the first bit-pattern is stored in the ~~first~~ at least one other entity.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 26, wherein each of the ~~variant and base-transport~~ keys is a second bit-pattern stored in the first and second entities during manufacture of the system or its components.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the second bit-pattern was determined randomly or pseudo-randomly.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the variant authentication key enables authenticated communication between the first and second entities.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the variant authentication key is a third bit-pattern that was determined randomly or pseudo-randomly.

37 - 54. (Cancelled)